

D9160(c)

SUBJECT: Information regarding one YECHIVI alias ASHBY

One YECHIVI, Zaki YOUSSEF, alias I. J.

ASHBY, alias Isaac ACHLI, alias Captain Jacques BERTRAND, etc., an Algerian, French subject, born at Jaffa on October 6, 1904, arrived in Shanghai from Colombo on January 9, 1939 in the ss. Rajputana.

He travelled under the name of Captain Jacques Y. YECHIVI, M.B.E., Deputy-Commandant (sic), Surete-Generale, Paris, France.

After a short trip to Japan he returned to Shanghai and opened, under the name of ASHBY, the British Finance and Insurance Agency, 9 Quai de France. As a result of interference from the local British Consular authorities this name had to be changed and in April 1939 it was known, first, as Cathay Finance Co., and later as the Finance, Insurance & Mercantile Co.

The concern of ASHBY-YECHIVI occupied itself with all sorts of doubtful matters verging on fraud but always conducted in such a manner that it avoided prosecution.

The victims were invariably compromised with the result that they were unable to lay a charge against him.

YECHIVI was on several occasions called to the French Consulate-General for debts, unmet cheques, etc., etc.....

In July 1939 the S.M.P. were informed by the Colombo Police that ASHBY, under the name of Captain Jacques BERTRAND, had committed fraud against members of this British Colony during the time he passed through in 1938.

In September 1939 the French Consulate-General received a request from the French Consulate-General in Jerusalem for information regarding YECHIVI emanating from his wife whom he had abandoned with two children.

Towards the end of 1939, through the mediation of Mr. HINGREUR, secretary of the French Commercial Attache in China, YECHIVI attempted to register his firm with the French Consulate-General, which led to the resignation of Mr. HINGREUR and his departure to France.

In order to facilitate his financial transactions and to attract clients YECHIVI had a large office through which he had organized a loan of several millions for the French Government. He had also had Mr. Godfrey, Secretary of the S.N.C. write to the Chief of the S.N.C. stating that YECHIVI no longer worked for the S.N.C. in his transactions. Although Mr. Godfrey had stated that YECHIVI continued to employ this firm, YECHIVI had a letter that he addressed on 11/11/39 to Mr. Godfrey (a copy attached).

In 1940 the Transoceanic Airlines having refused - for obvious reasons - to renew his lease, YECHIVI transferred his agency to the Broadway Mansions. Some time later he changed the name of his enterprise to "The Associated Finance Corporation, Ltd."

On 11/11/39 YECHIVI was forced by a Consular Order to leave the premises he was occupying in the Broadway Mansions as a result of non-payment of rent. It is of interest to note that the complainant in this case was Billy HINDER, well known Swiss adventurer who, at this period, sub-let the 17th and 18th floors of this building.

In September-October 1940 YECHIVI no longer had an office to his name and he was working with the firm of American Exporters, 31 Canton Road. It is to be recalled that the director of this firm is one RAISIN, American Jew, known for his relations with ECKELMAN alias Carl LUND, etc... German, well known crook.

In October 1940 YECHIVI presented himself at the French Consulate-General in order to renew or prolong his passport. His request was met with a refusal.

In November 1940 YECHIVI installed himself in Room 702 Liza Building, 346 Szechuen Road under the name of Ashgould Co. He had as an associate one GOULD, an American. The latter, realizing his partner was shady, left him soon afterwards. YECHIVI then changed the name of his company to YECHIVI & CO. A board carrying this name still appears on Office No. 702, Liza Building. The enterprise was really managed by an unrecognised Netherlander named CANTA who was in YECHIVI'S confidence. It was thus that YECHIVI lived with CANTA'S wife in recent times at Apartment 701, 137 Seymour Road.

Mme CANTA, who often called herself by her maiden name - Mlle LOTZ or LOTS - left for Batavia on January 13.

On January 15, 1941 YECHIVI left Shanghai saying that he was going to join up with the forces of General de GAULLE. On January 12 a reception in his honour was held in the Cercle Sportif Francais by followers of General de Gaulle in Shanghai. He is said to have left with a passport or similar document issued by the British authorities.

On January 18, Mr. DEMICHEFF, Russian, working with the International Import & Export Co., 40 Ningpo Road and residing at 188/10 Avenue du Roi Albert, brought a charge of fraud against YECHIVI before the French Consular Court. It concerned a cheque for \$10,000.00 drawn on the Chartered Bank by YECHIVI when he had not a current account at this bank. The cheque in question was drawn from a cheque book of Mr. DEMICHEFF who possesses an account at this bank. The case is still not yet very clear but it seems that this cheque was handed to DEMICHEFF as a guarantee of payment of sums owed to him by YECHIVI.

The latter left in Shanghai various debts which amount to several thousands of dollars:

Among his victims may be mentioned:

Mr. KAZEROONI, director of the Iran & China Trading
Corporation, 24 The Bund.

Messrs. RODGER & WIENER, Lawyers, 181 Kiangse Road.
Broadway Mansions

Mr. H. I. HAJEK, architect, 169 Yuen Ming Yuen Road

Mr. RUBIO, manager of the Tiny Mansions, 749/11 Yu Yuen
Road

Mr. MENASCE, address unknown.

Dr. NEWMANN, Central Arcade, Room 5a.

Mr. NOVOLESKY, Polish Legation

Foreign and Japanese radio and cablegram companies, etc..

This list is certainly not complete.

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He travelled under the name of Captain Jacques Y. YECHIVI, M.S.E., Deputy-Commandant (sic), Surete-Generale, Paris, France.

After a short trip to Japan he returned to Shanghai and opened, under the name of ASHBY, the British Finance and Insurance Agency, 9 Quai de France. As a result of interference from the local British Consular authorities this name had to be changed and in April 1939 it was known, first, as Cathay Finance Co., and later as the Finance, Insurance & Mercantile Co.

The concern of ASHBY-YECHIVI occupied itself with all sorts of doubtful matters verging on fraud but always conducted in such a manner that it avoided prosecution.

The victims were invariably compromised with the result that they were unable to lay a charge against him.

YECHIVI was on several occasions called to the French Consulate-General for debts, unmet cheques, etc., etc.....

In July 1939 the S.M.P. were informed by the Colombo Police that ASHBY, under the name of Captain Jacques BERTRAND, had committed fraud against members of this British Colony during the time he passed through in 1938.

In September 1939 the French Consulate-General received a request from the French Consulate-General in Jerusalem for information regarding YECHIVI emanating from his wife whom he had abandoned with two children.

Towards the end of 1939, through the medium of Mr. WEISGERBER, secretary of the French Commercial Attache in China, YECHIVA attempted to register his firm with the French Consulate-General, which led to the resignation of Mr. WEISGERBER and his departure to France.

In order to facilitate his financial machinations and to attract clients easier YECHIVI spread rumours through Shanghai that he was organizing a loan of several million dollars for the Shanghai Municipal Council. On December 29, 1939 Mr. Godfrey PHILLIPS, Secretary of the S.M.C. wrote to the Chief of the French Police requesting that YECHIVI no longer utilize the name of the S.M.C. in his transactions. Although the necessary steps were taken YECHIVI continued to employ this trick as evidenced by a letter that he addressed on May 17, 1940 to Mr. DEMICHEFF (see copy attached).

In March 1940 the Messageries Maritimes having refused - for obvious reasons - to renew his lease, YECHIVI transferred his agency to the Broadway Mansions. Some time later he changed the name of his enterprise to "The Amalgamated Finance Corporation, Ltd."

In July 1940 YECHIVI was forced by a Consular Order to leave the premises he was occupying in the Broadway Mansions as a result of non-payment of rent. It is of interest to note that the complainant in this case was Elly WIDLER, well known Swiss adventurer who, at this period, sub-let the 17th and 18th floors of this building.

In September-October 1940 YECHIVI no longer had an office to his name and he was working with the firm of American Exporters, 51 Canton Road. It is to be recalled that the director of this firm is one RAISIN, American Jew, known for his relations with ECKELMAN alias Carl LUND, etc... German, well known crook.

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Some CANTA, who often called herself by her maiden name - Mlle LOTZ or LOTS - left for Batavia on January 13.

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Mr. RUBIO, manager of the Tiny Mansions, 749/11 Yu Yuen
Road

Mr. LENASCE, address unknown.

Dr. NEULANN, Central Arcade, Room 5a.

Mr. NOVOLESKY, Polish Legation

Foreign and Japanese radio and cablegram companies, etc..

This list is certainly not complete.



Objet Renseignements sur le nommé YECHIVI alias ASHBY.

No 5494/S

Réfer Algériens à Shanghai.

Le nommé YECHIVI, Zaki YO.SSOUF, alias I.J.ASHBY,
alias ACHLI Isaac, alias Capitaine BERTRAND Jacques,
etc... Algérien, sujet Français, né à Jaffa le 6 Octo-
bre 1904, arriva de Colombo à Shanghai le 9 Janvier
1939 à bord du "Rajputana".

~~I.P/R.C.~~
I.P/G.E.

Il voyageait sous le nom de Capitaine Jacques Y.JECHIVI M.B.E.⁽¹⁾, sous-Commandant (sic), Sûreté Générale, Paris, France.

Après un court voyage au Japon, il revint à Shanghai et ouvrit, sous le nom d'ACHEY, la "British Finance and Insurance Agency" au N° 9 Quai de France. A la suite de l'intervention des Autorités Consulaires Britanniques cette raison sociale fut changée, en Avril 1939, d'abord en "Cathay Finance Co" et ensuite en "Finance, Insurance and Mercantile Co".

La firme d'ASHEY-YECHIVI s'occupait de toutes sortes d'affaires louches, frôlant l'escroquerie, mais toujours tournées d'une façon si adroite qu'il échappait aux poursuites.

SERVICE POLITIQUE
 Registré le 10 FEB. 1944
 Sous No. 41887
 Transmis à 22-B
 Pour cl.

(1) Member of British Empire.

● ● ● ● ● ● ● ● ●

Il s'arrangeait d'ailleurs pour compromettre ses victimes qui par la suite ne pouvaient plus porter plainte.

YECHIVI fut plusieurs fois convoqué au Consulat Général de France pour dettes, chèques sans provision, etc...

En Juillet 1939, la Police Internationale fut informée par la Police de Colombo que ASHBY, sous le nom de Capitaine Jacques BERTRAND, avait commis des escroqueries au préjudice de résidents de cette colonie anglaise, lors de son passage en 1938.

En Septembre 1939, le Consulat Général de France fut saisi d'une demande de renseignements du Consulat Général de France à Jérusalem sur YECHIVI émanant de sa femme sans ressources et abandonnée avec ses deux enfants.

Fin 1939, par l'intermédiaire de Mr.WEISGERBER, secrétaire de l'Attaché Commercial de France en Chine, YECHIVI tenta de faire enregistrer sa firme au Consulat Général de France, ce qui amena la démission de Mr. WEISGERBER et son départ pour la France.

Afin de faciliter ses combinaisons financières et d'attirer plus facilement les "clients" YECHIVI répandait à Shanghai le bruit qu'il organisait un emprunt de plusieurs millions de dollars pour le S.M.C. Le 29 Décembre 1939, Mr.PHILLIPS, secrétaire du S.M.C. écrivit au Directeur des Services de Police pour le

... ..

prier d'inviter YECHIVI à ne plus se servir du nom du
...C. dans ses tractations. Bien que le nécessaire
ait été fait, YECHIVI n'en continua pas moins son stra-
tégème, ainsi que le prouve une lettre qu'il adressa le
17 mai 1940 à Mr.D. VICHNEFF (voir en annexe copie de ce
document).

En Mars 1940, les Messageries Maritimes ayant
refusé - pour des raisons évidentes - de lui renouveler
son bail, YECHIVI transféra son agence au "Broadway
Mansions". Quelque temps après il changea le nom de
son entreprise en "The Amalgamated Finance Corporation,
Ltd".

En Juillet 1940, YECHIVI fut contraint, par or-
dre du Tribunal Consulaire, de quitter les locaux qu'il
occupait au "Broadway Mansions" pour non paiement du
loyer. Il est intéressant de noter que le plaignant
dans cette affaire était le nommé Lily WIDLER, aventu-
rier suisse bien connu, qui sous-louait à cette époque
les 17è et 18è étages de cet immeuble.

En Septembre-Octobre 1940 YECHIVI n'avait plus
de bureau à son nom et travaillait avec la maison "Ame-
rican Exporters" No.51 Canton road. Rappelons que le
directeur de cette maison est un nommé RAISIN, israéli-
te américain, connu pour ses relations avec le nommé
ECKELMAN alias Carl LUND etc... Allemand, escroc notoi-
re.

... ..

En octobre 1940, YACHIVI se présenta au Consulat Général de France pour prolonger ou renouveler son passeport. Sa demande fut refusée.

Au mois de novembre 1940, YACHIVI s'installa au No.346 Szechuen road (Liza Building), chambre 702, sous la raison sociale de "Shigould Co.". Il avait comme associé un nommé GAU, indonésien. Ce dernier s'étant aperçu que son associé était un escroc, il le quitta peu après. YACHIVI changea encore une fois de plus le nom de sa maison qu'il appela "Yachivi & Co.".

Cette enseigne est toujours à la porte de la chambre 702, Liza Building. L'entreprise serait gérée actuellement par un nommé CANTA, hollandais non reconnu qui serait l'homme de confiance de YACHIVI. C'est d'ailleurs avec la femme de CANTA que YACHIVI vivait maritalement ces derniers temps au No.157 Seymour road, Apt.701.

Mme CANTA, qui se faisait appeler par son nom de jeune fille - Mlle NOTZ ou NOTS, partit le 13 Janvier 1941 pour Batavia.

Le 15 Janvier 1941, YACHIVI quitta notre ville soi-disant pour rejoindre les troupes du Général de GAULLE. Le 12, une réception en son honneur avait été organisée au "Cercle Sportif Français" par les partisans du Général de GAULLE à Shanghai. Il dut partir avec un passeport périmé ou avec un document quelconque, délivré par les Autorités Britanniques.

... ..

Le 18 Janvier, Mr.DEMICHEFF, Russe travaillant à l'"International Import et Export C^o", No.40 Ningpo road, et domicilié au No.188/10 Avenue du Roi Albert, porta plainte pour escroquerie au Tribunal Consulaire de France contre YECHIVI. Il s'agit d'un chèque de \$ 10.000, émis par l'intéressé sur la "Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China" alors qu'il n'avait pas de compte courant à cette banque. Un détail est à retenir; le chèque en question fut tiré du carnet de Mr.DEMICHEFF qui, lui, possède un compte à la banque en question. L'affaire n'est pas encore très claire mais il paraît que ce chèque fut remis à Mr.DEMICHEFF en garantie du paiement des sommes que lui doit YECHIVI.

Ce dernier laisse à Shanghai de nombreuses dettes qui s'élèveraient à plusieurs dizaines de milliers de dollars.

Parmi ses victimes, on cite entre autres les personnes suivantes:

Mr.KAZEROONI, directeur de la "Iran & China Trading Corporation", No.24 The Bund.

Mes.RODGER & WIENER, avocats, 181 Kiangse road.

Broadway Mansions:

Mr.H.I.HAJEK, architecte, 169 Yuen Ming Yuen road.

Mr.RUBIO, gérant de "Tiny Mansions", 749/11 Yu Yuen road.

... ..

Mr. MENASCE⁽¹⁾, adresse inconnue.

Dr. NEUMANN, Central Arcade, Chambre 5 A.

Mr. NOVOLSKY, de la Légation Polonaise,

Des compagnies de cables étrangères et la Compagnie de radiogrammes japonaise, etc...etc...

Cette liste n'est certainement pas complète.

(1) Rappelons que c'est par l'intermédiaire de Mr. MENASCE que YECHIVI entra en contact avec Mr. WEISGERBER du Bureau de l'Attaché Commercial.

COPIE

THE SHANGHAI FINANCE CORPORATION LTD
Broadway Mansions

Shanghai May 17th 1943.

Mr. A.G. DEMISHEFF
346 Szechuen road,
Liza Building,
Shanghai.

Dear Mr. Demisheff,

I am sending you herewith, privately, the last two copies of documents sent to the Shanghai Municipal Council with regards to the loan.

I hereby inform you that out of the two per cent (2%) forthcoming to us in this business half per cent (½%) will be paid to Mr. Percy Tilley and yourself; being the promised remuneration for your services in this affair,

Assuring you of my co-operation, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

(signed) I.J. YICHIVI.

COPIE

Shanghai, 16th of May 1940

GMN/40/684

G.G. PHILLIPS, Esq.
Secretary of Commissioner General
Shanghai Municipal Council,
S H A N G H A I

Dear Sir,

Having not heard from you yesterday, I have to confirm the interview and conversation exchanged between us at your office on the 14th instand with regard the loan to the Shanghai Municipal Council through the Paget Guarantee Corporation Limited, London, whom we represent at Shanghai, China.

I am enclosing hereto copy of cable despatched to our London firm with view to ascertain the question of commission and I shall get in touch with you upon receipt of reply to my above quoted cablegram.

I like to emphasize the fact that the verbal arrangements for the payment of this commission which, should have been 3½%, has been now diminished to 3% which our London collaborators have already deducted - according to your information - and I do hereby accept the reduction made in the commission as long the full amount has been paid by either the Council or the London Underwriters through our Principals

Assuring you of my discreet co-opération and expecting to be favoured with your invaluable assistance and collaboration in the future as in the past and whilst thanking you for all the troubles caused you herein, I remain,

Yours respectfully,

(signed) I.J. YICHIVI.

COPIE

R A N I G L A N

WORLD WIDE WIRELESS

AMALGAMATED INTERNATIONAL RADIO OFFICE

15/5/40

STOP PAY GET QUARTERS CORPORATION LONDON.
UNIONIST COUNCIL DIVIDED TWOPERCENT BLING OUR
COMMISSION FOR MOAN WERE DEDUCTED YOUR END IF SO KIND6
BY CABLE SA L URGENTEX TO REMUNERATE LEGALADVISERS
GENERAL PLAYS ING STOP NO EXTRACTS RECEIVED SO FAR
FINING D. ANDS URGENT TRANSFER CREDITS TO ENABLE
SHIPMENT 21 STOP STATE WHAT LABELS TO USE THIS SHIPMENT
STOP BULBS 2.5. INCREASING DAILY IRREVOCABLE PURCHASE
OFFER MUST BE MADE YOUR BUYERS TO ENABLE CONTRACT LO-
CALLY QUANTITY REQUIRED.

AMALGAMATED FINANCE

(signed) I.J.YECHIVI

3702 The Amalgamated Finance Corp.Ltd
17 th Floor Broadway Mansions.

15/5/40.

CORRE

Telephones:
Regent 5040, 5623
Regent 2309

Reg. Offices:
Ling House, Dominion Street,
Dorsetgate S.C.2.

Codes:
A.B.C. 5th edition
Nieber
Eastern Union

Telegrams:
Handle, Piccy, London

Directors: David & Phillips Lannon formerly Davidoff
& Lincoln Gerskorn (Russ)

Finance arranged
Underwriting in Capital
Debentures, Mortgages
Bills of Lading
Reversions and Annuities

18 Savile Row,
London W.1.
New-York - 170
Broadway.

27th December 1939.

Messrs British Finance & Insurance Agency Ltd.
9, Quai de France (French Bund)
Shanghai.

Dear Sirs,

We acknowledge receipt of your telegram which reads
as follows:

"SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL COUNCIL REQUEST YOUR BANQUERS REFUSE-
RENCE BE GIVEN HONGKONG SHANGHAI BANK LONDON TO ENABLE
"NEGOTIATIONS STOP SIMILAR INSTRUCTIONS ALREADY GIVEN
"TO LOCAL BRANCH STOP ACT ACCORDINGLY NOTIFY US RESULTS".

Our solicitor, Sir Alfred Baker, of Messrs Kenneth
Brown, Baker and Baker, Essex House, Essex Street, Strand London
W.C.2 one of the most eminent firms of solicitors in England,
has been in touch with the Manager of the Hongkong Shanghai Bank
in London and informed him that we believe that it is only the
matter of few days when this matter will proceed, subject to
certain permissions,

On hearing from our solicitors who act for one of the
largest financial groups, that they are able to proceed, we
will cable you immediately.

YOURS FAITHFULLY,

The Paget Guarantee Corporation Ltd.

D.Lannon, Director.

"A"

File No. 892/40.

Central
September 13th., 40.

1.

12/9/40 and 13/9/40.

General enquiries.

Complainant against I.J. Ashby alias Yechivi Zaki Yausif.

At 3-10pm. on 12/9/40 the complainant A.S.Chebia, French Syrian, c/o No.668 Szechuen Road, came to the Station with Mr. D.P.Mayor, British Indian, also of No.668 Szechuen Road.

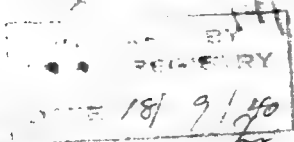
The complainant states that he arrived in Shanghai on or about 1/8/40 and engaged rooms at the New Asia Hotel. A few days later he met another resident who introduced himself as I.J.Ashby, a French Algerian, and they became friendly because of their mutual knowledge of the French Language.

He then confided to Ashby that he was in possession of 140 Egyptian Pounds which he was unable to exchange at local Banks and Exchange Shops, and Ashby agreed to help him dispose of this money.

A few days later the complainant met Ashby by appointment at Room 702 Liza Building, Szechuen Road, and handed over the 140 pounds without obtaining a receipt. He was promised payment in Chinese dollars in a few days time.

The complainant made unsuccessful efforts to obtain this money and at the end of August he informed Mr. D.P.Mayor, whom he knew intimately.

Mayor then met Ashby and asked him for the money,



Misc. 892/42.

Sheet 2.

but was told that 100 pounds had been sent to New York as they could not be changed locally.

This did not satisfy Mayor and on 2/9/40 Ashby took Mayor and the complainant to Mr. Louis Raisin, American, manager of the "American Exporters", Rooms 513 and 514, No. 51 Canton Road.

Raisin and Ashby seemed close friends and Ashby asked Raisin to hold a cheque for \$5650.00 on the Chartered Bank of India & Australia No. 225872, post-dated to September 12th., 1940 and signed by "Denishoff". He asked Raisin to hand the cheque over to the complainant on September 12th., 1940 if the 100 pounds were not returned by that date. Ashby then handed 40 Egyptian pounds back to the complainant.

Raisin then made out a receipt to the complainant, which reads as follows:-

"D.P. Mayor Esq. Shanghai,

2/9/40.

Dear Sir,

This is to confirm that I have received cheque No. 225872 dated 12-9-40 for the sum of \$5650.00 with instructions to hand same over to you if one hundred Egyptian pounds are not paid in to you or me by that date

Yours faithfully,
American Exporters,

Louis Raisin."

This satisfied the complainant and no further

File No. 892/40.

1/3/40 3.

action was taken at that time.

At 2pm. on 12/8/40 the complainant and Mayor called at Raisin's office for the cheque and were informed that Ashby had called earlier and had stated that "Gendishoff" who had signed the cheque had insufficient funds to meet it. Ashby had left a second cheque also signed by "Gendishoff" post-dated to September 28th., 1940 with the suggestion that the complainant accept this cheque instead.

This second cheque was numbered "225873" which is one number higher than the first cheque.

The complainant refused to accept the second cheque and was given the first one by Mr. Raisin, who also showed him a letter he had just received from the "British Finance & Insurance Company" No.9 Quai de France, and signed by Ashby as Manager. Ashby wrote that advice had now been received from New York that the Egyptian pounds could not be exchanged into another currency and that they were being returned to Shanghai.

The complainant and Mayor then proceeded to the Chartered Bank of India & Australia and presented the cheque. Same was returned and marked "Refer to drawer".

At 4-30pm. on 12/9/40 the undersigned interviewed Mr. Raisin and was shown the second cheque which he

100-892/40

Sheet 4.

wished to retain. Mr. Salomon said that he had mislaid the letter from Ashby regarding the pounds being returned from New York.

He showed the undersigned other communications from Ashby on note paper of the "Amalgamated Finance Corporation, Broadway Mansions" The latter address had been blotted out.

He stated that he had no interest in the matter of the 100 pounds, merely doing Ashby and the complainant a favour in holding the cheque until it was due for payment. He handed over the cheque on 12/9/40 as agreed by Ashby and the complainant.

He first met Ashby about one month ago when he introduced some business which he is now negotiating and which is the subject of a Confidential Report.

Enquiries at the Special Branch on 13/9/40 show that Ashby is known to the Police and is the subject of File B.9160/C. A.G. Denishoff is also mentioned on that file.

Enquiries at the Chartered Bank on 13/9/40 show that Denishoff's account has been dormant with \$5.00 since April 1937.

The "Amalgamated Finance Corporation" and the "British Finance & Insurance Company" are now defunct.

100-350270.

1/Sheet 5.

100-350270 is an Office opened by Mr. Percy Tilley, Architect, and A.G. Denishoff is employed there.

The undersigned called at this office at 2-30pm. on 11/9/40 and was informed by the Chinese clerk that Mr. Tilley was not in office and that Denishoff had not attended work that morning because of illness. His address is not known.

There is not any evidence at present that Ashby has misappropriated the complainant's money and efforts are being made to locate Denishoff for questioning regarding the useless cheques.

Copy to D.C. (Special Branch).

W. K. ...
Sen. Det.

Dr. Watson.
D.S.I.

D.D.O. "A"

MEMO.

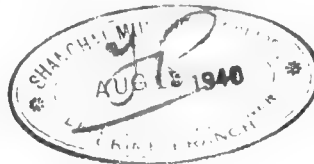
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

OFFICE OF DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
(CRIME BRANCH)

Date

DC. (SB)

Many thanks. The
article undoubtedly refers
to Ashby who is no
better nor no worse
than Kuraki.



re 8-40
[Signature]

14/

Summarized translation of an article which appeared in ^{9/1/40} Japane-
nese-sponsored Russian newspaper "The Far Eastern Times" on
2-8-40. Editor and publisher - Mr. K. Kuroki, 409 East Seward
Road.

A BRILLIANT BUT MYSTERIOUS PERSONAGE
IN SHANGHAI BUSINESS LIFE

5.4 - one
10.6 - 1
this
article refers
to J. ...
making
file
attached.
Thousands of criminals, both Chinese and foreigners, are arrested in Shanghai every month and spend some time in gaol, after which they are released for reasons of economy and resume their former activities.

Still greater is the number of Shanghailanders who never get acquainted with methods of a Police investigation and never see the inside of a prison cell. Being engaged in various shady activities on a large scale they continue to enjoy life generally and night life in particular.

Q. Ref.
12/5.
Having at our disposal statements of several persons and certain documental data, we are in a position to describe the activities of certain individuals who wear well tailored clothes and snow-white collars, but whose conscience is not so irreproachable.

At present an individual of an obscure origin and with a name that is difficult to remember is well known in local business circles. His "genealogical table" may be described as follows: an Arabian Jew, native of Syria, French citizen and a Colonel of British service.

He appeared in Shanghai about a year ago. Having put up his residence at one of the most stately local hotels, he proceeded with the business of making acquaintances. Always immaculately dressed, lavishly entertaining everyone, giving dinner parties etc. he very soon formed a large number of friends and useful connections.

The next phase of his activities was the opening of an office in a nine-storied building on the Bund, the construction of which had just been completed. Stylish steel furniture, a

staff of employees, a majestic study - all gives the same impression of solidity as the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank.

According to a brass plate on the entrance door, the firm is engaged in various insurance, financial and commercial transactions.

It soon became known in Shanghai that loans of any amount and in any currency could be obtained through the medium of the new firm against real estate security, the interest being only 6%. The most surprising feature was that loans could be obtained for periods from 3 to 20 years.

Visitors were received by the head of the firm in a very charming manner, and all applications were met with a favourable reply: O, yes, it will be very easy to arrange for the loan. Only certain formalities must be carried out. A reply will be given on the following day, after a special form had been filled by the applicant.

However, the applicants were soon disappointed. They were informed with the same charming smile that before their applications could be forwarded to the head office at London, it was necessary to cover certain technical expenses in this connection, amounting to about 4% of the sum involved. Upon completing these formalities, the applicants were told to call again in a month's time, after which they were informed that their applications had been refused by the head office or that the matter was delayed owing to certain unforeseen circumstances. In the former case, the firm does not take any responsibility, as in accordance with an agreement all applicants had signed, the amount of the technical expenses incurred must be split between the parties concerned. In other words the firm gets its 2% for nothing. As an alternative, the matter can be dragged indefinitely.

We know a Russian who paid the necessary "expenses" six months ago, but up to the present has received neither money, nor

final refusal. Another Russian ,whom we know personally, paid about \$3,000 as technical expenses and has now lost any hope of recovering his money. It is said that there are about 20 victims of this "financier" in the Russian community and that there are considerably more amongst the Chinese population, and a few amongst foreigners. Anyhow the firm must be getting nice profit from these transactions, because the "head" of the firm lives in a luxurious apartment and maintains an expensive office.

His activities have already attracted the attention of the Police, but for obvious reasons it is difficult to gather information regarding his tricks.

Local large insurance companies whose interest was aroused by the activities of this firm, have been unable to find out what are the insurance companies he is supposed to represent.

Q. 8.

A. The K. K. K.
.....
D.S.I.

1-1-16

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No: E. 9160/C.

Headquarters Division.

Crime Branch Police Station.

July 25, 1940

Diary Number:	Nature of Offence:
Time at which investigation begun and concluded each day	Places visited in course of investigation each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

At the request of Det. Sergt. Pierre of the French Police assistance was rendered by D.S.I. Pryde and D.S. Sugimoto of C.B.H.Q. (C.1) and I. J. Ashby alias Yechivi was arrested in Room 328 of the New Asia Hotel at 4.20 p.m. on 24-7-40.

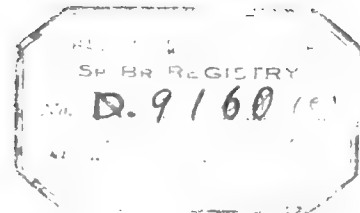
Det. Sergt. Pierre conveyed Ashby direct to the French Consular Court where his activities are being investigated by the French Magistrate.

DC. SB
Information

St. 10.55 1940
Special Branch
(Confidential)

Supt.

1-11



E. 9160/C

Headquarters
Crime Branch

July 25, 40

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Det. Sergt. Pierre conveyed Ashby direct to the French Consular Court where his activities are being investigated by the French Magistrate.

[Handwritten signature]
Supt.

SECRET

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S. 1. Special Branch *Admitted*

REPORT

Date April 8 19 40

Subject. I. J. Ashby - manager of the British Finance and Insurance

Agency.

Made by D. S. T. Wide. ... / provided by D. J. Crawford.

On April 4, 1940, following a dispute over rent I.J. Ashby, manager of the British Finance and Insurance Agency, vacated his office at Room 50 of the Messageries Maritimes Building, 9 Quai de France, and moved to the 17th floor of the Broadway Mansion, telephone No. 4 7.

French Police notified.

D. S. T.

D.C. (Special Branch)

CTH

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
F. B. REGISTRY
S. B. D.

REPORT

S. 1, Special Branch Subdiv.

Date March 1, 1940

Subject I. J. Ashby - manager of the British Finance and Insurance Agency.

Made by D. S. I. Hilde

Forwarded by D. J. Crawford

On the afternoon of March 1st, 1940, Mr.

F. Tilley, civil engineer and architect, of 346 Szechuen Road, was interviewed regarding a recent wireless broadcast concerning the proposed loan to the Municipal Council.

Mr. Tilley stated that apart from the fact that he introduced Mr. I. J. Ashby, a director of the Paget Guarantee Corporation of London at present in Shanghai, to Mr. Morcher of the Municipal Council, he has taken no part in the loan negotiations.

He also stated that he had heard a broadcast by Mr. Carroll Alcott on February 28th touching on the subject of the loan, in which Mr. Alcott stated that the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank is willing to underwrite a loan of ten million dollars to the Shanghai Municipal Council providing that the proposed increase of 50% in rates and taxes is approved at the forthcoming ratepayers' meeting. He denied that the broadcast contained any reference to himself or to the Paget Guarantee Corporation.

In reply to a direct question, Mr. Tilley reiterated that Ashby is a director of this Corporation.

L. W. D. C.

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

Mr. Alcott's broadcast is usually faithful reproduced in the China News & in the comments contained in that newspaper copy attached. There is no mention of the Paget Guarantee Corporation.

Is it desired that Mr. Alcott be approached personally please?

Butler

*DC (Sp Br)
Will you kindly show Mr. Gubb this up and discuss for the action on it him.*



INDEXED
(S. B.) REGISTRY

DATE 3/3/40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No:— C.I. Misc. 12/40
Spl. Br. D.9160

Headquarters Division.
 Crime Branch Police Station.
January 19, 1940

Diary Number:— 1

Nature of Offence:

Time at which
 investigation begun
 and concluded each day

CONFIDENTIAL

Places
 visited in
 course of
 investigation
 each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

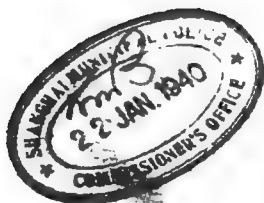
The undersigned is in receipt of authentic information that one named S.A.R. Kazarooni, an Iranian Subject, the manager of The Iran & China Trading Corp., 24 Bund, is the latest victim of Ashby who has induced Kazarooni to form a Finance Company in Shanghai.

The scheme in brief is that Kazarooni put up £10,000. 0. 0. Sterling and that Ashby's company will loan £40,000. 0. 0. which will be raised by selling shares on the London market. Kazarooni has already paid over to Ashby \$7,500.00 as organising expenses and has been shown a cable from London dated January 12th, 1940 and received in Shanghai January 15th, 1940 to the effect that the London House agrees to this scheme.

The agreement is to the effect that the £40,000. 0. 0. has to be raised in London within two months and when confirmation of this is received in Shanghai, Kazarooni has to pay over £10,000. 0. 0. and he will become a director of the company.

Kazarooni has implicit faith in Ashby at the present time.

This information has been received from a third party, so full information regarding the transactions are not available, but as the amount



Handwritten signature and initials

Handwritten date: 14 2 40

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No:—

Division.

Police Station.

19

Diary Number:— 1/2

Nature of Offence:—

Time at which
investigation begun
and concluded each day

Places
visited in
course of
investigation
each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

concerned is so large it seems probable that Ashby will disappear from Shanghai if he is successful in obtaining the £10,000. 0. 0. from Kazarooni.

G. B. Pryce.

D. S. I.

CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER

CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. B. REGISTRY

No. S. B. D. 9160 (c)

Date 8-1-40

Headquarters

Shanghai Municipal Police.

January 4, 1940.

To. Secretary & Commissioner General,

S. M. C.

The Commissioner of Police presents his compliments in forwarding herewith the undermentioned documents.

Reference No:- D 9160

Subject :- British Finance and Insurance Agency.

Enclosures Copies of Police reports.

FILE

1. 2

'rime Branch,

December 29, 1939.

Dr. Read was previously F.S. 122 of the F.M.P. and resigned in 1931. He stated he is now the owner of a coal mine situated in French Indo-China near the Kwangsi border and about 150 kilometres up river from Haiphong. He purchased this coal mine with money he received as a legacy from some relations in England. According to history, he has the Jardine Matheson contract for coal at Haiphong and also an Admiralty contract for Hongkong. About May 1939 he returned to Shanghai from Indo-China with the object of raising money to further develop this coal mine and through a Russian broker named DEMISHCHEN (?) he was introduced to ASERY.

Read supplied ASBEY with photographic copies of all documents in connection with this mine and ASBEY agreed to arrange with the PACET Guarantee Corp. of London for a loan of \$10,000.00 repayable at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ % interest. It was at first arranged that ASBEY should value the property but later he agreed to only look over the plans, documents etc., and if Read would sign over to him a number of shares in this mine he would immediately arrange about the loan. This caused Read to be suspicious and all negotiations have now fallen through.

Demisheff.

According to Read, Ashby is on friendly terms with one named WEISBURGER(?) who is employed in the French Commercial Attache's office.

Read states that when he visited Ashby's office he was shown a group photograph of the Reads of Scotland Yard in which Ashby is very prominent and also another document granting Ashby admission to Buckingham Palace and bearing the Royal Crest. These documents were shown in a casual manner, evidently with the idea of instilling confidence.

Read appears quite willing to supply any further information he can obtain about Ashby.

Regarding Read, judging by his office accommodation, he does not appear to be the owner of a coal mine, but this can be checked on by enquiring at Jardines as to whether he has the contract to coal their ships at Haiphong.

Enquiries are being made to locate DEMISHOFF in an endeavour to get further information re Ashby.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S. 1, Special Branch *Shanghai*

REPORT

Date, JANUARY 4, 1940.

Subject: British Finance and Insurance Agency.

Made by D.S.I. Wade

ForWARDED by D. I. Crawford

During the past few weeks I.J. Ashby has been negotiating with a group of Chinese regarding the formation of a concern to be known as "The Queens Hotel Company" which proposes to construct a hotel of that name at the corner of Hankow and Yu Ya Ching Roads. In the course of these negotiations Ashby produced for their inspection a cablegram which reads as follows :-

DAJ3/B LONDON 30 1701 =
DLT = BRITISH FINANCE SHANGHAI =
PURCHASE IMMEDIATELY 200 BALES COTTONYARN
TRANSHIP TRIESTE NOTIFYING YUGOSLAVIAN
EXPRESS AGENCY STOP CREDIT OPENED CHASEBANK
SHANGHAI STOP LOAN QUEENS HOTEL COMPANY FOR
SEVENHUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS ACCEPTED
SUBMIT CONTRACTS

PAGET GUARANTEE CORPORATION =

The Paget Guarantee Corporation is unknown among reputable business circles and is not mentioned in the London Directory or the London Business Directory for 1939. It has been established that no credit has been opened at the local office of the Chase Bank. Enquiries at the various cable companies prove that "Such a cable has been received" although of course, this does not prove the authenticity of the document as Ashby may have a confederate working in

Y. H. Robertson
CONFIDENTIAL

*Cpy for info
to S & C G*



INDEXED BY
(S.B.) REGISTRY
DATE 1/1/

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

- 2 -

Date. 19

London.

It is understood that the Chinese have already withdrawn from the deal without loss, apart from certain cable expenses, despite which it will be of interest to obtain full details of Ashby's proposition. However, owing to the fact that the Chinese insist on remaining anonymous and information can be obtained only through a third party, it will be several days before further details are available.

With reference to D.S.I. Pryde's report of December 29th, 1939, it appears likely that the photograph shown to Mr. R.J. Read is identical with that presented for the inspection of Ashby's fellow passengers aboard the s.s. Rajputana as detailed in Special Branch report of April 27th, 1939, and forms a part of his stock in trade to create confidence among his prospective associates.

D. S. I.

DAJ3/B LONDON 30 1701 =

DLT = BRITISH FINANCE SHANGHAI =

PURCHASE IMMEDIATELY 200 BATES COTTONYARN TRANSHIP
TRIESTE NOTIFYING YUGOSLAVIAN EXPRESS AGENCY STOP
CREDIT OPENED CHASEBANK SHANGHAI STOP LOAN QUEBES
HOTEL COMPANY FOR SEVENHUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS
ACCEPTED SUBMIT CONTRACTS

PAGET GUARANTEE CORPORATION =

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No: S.M.D.9160.

Headquarters Division.
Crime Branch Police Station.
December 29, 1939.

Diary Number:

Nature of Offence:

Time at which
investigation begun
and concluded each day

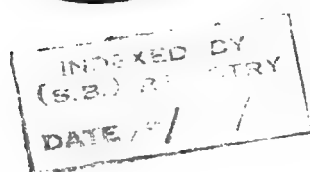
Places
visited in
course of
investigation
each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

On the instructions of the D.C. (Crime),
D.S.I. Pryde interviewed Mr. R.J. Read, General
Manager of Read Cooper & Co., 650 Szechuen Road,
on the morning of 29.12.39.

Mr. Read was previously P.S. 124 of the
S.M.P. and resigned in 1931. He stated he is now
the owner of a coal mine situated in French Indo-
China near the Kwangsi border and about 150 kilometres
up river from Haiphong. He purchased this coal mine
with money he received as a legacy from some relations
in England. According to his story he has the Jardine
Matheson contract for coal at Haiphong and also an
Admiralty contract for Hongkong. About May 1939
he returned to Shanghai from Indo-China with the
object of raising money to further develop this
coal mine and through a Russian broker named
DEMISHOFF (?) he was introduced to ASHEY.

Read supplied ASHEY with photographic
copies of all documents in connection with this
mine and ASHEY agreed to arrange with the PAGET
Guarantee Corp. of London for a loan of £10,000.00
repayable at 4½% interest. It was at first arranged
that ASHEY should value the property but later he
agreed to only look over the plans, documents etc.,



Information,
inquiries and
containing.

Adm
29/12

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No:

Division.

Police Station.

19

Diary Number: 1/2.

Nature of Offence:

Time at which
investigation began
and concluded each day.

Place
visited in
course of
investigation
each day.

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

and if Read would sign over to him a number of shares in this mine he would immediately arrange about the loan. This caused Read to be suspicious and all negotiations have now fallen through.

According to Read, Ashby is on friendly terms with one named DEMISHOFF(?) who is employed in the French Commercial Attache's office.

Read states that when he visited Ashby's office he was shown a group photograph of the Heads of Scotland Yard in which Ashby is very prominent and also another document granting Ashby admission to Buckingham Palace and bearing the Royal Crest. These documents were shown in a casual manner, evidently with the idea of instilling confidence.

Read appears quite willing to supply any further information he can obtain about Ashby.

Regarding Read, judging by his office accommodation, he does not appear to be the owner of a coal mine, but this can be checked on by enquiring at Jardines as to whether he has the contract to coal their ships at Haiphong.

Enquiries are being made to locate DEMISHOFF in an endeavour to get further information re Ashby.

D. S. I.

R. J. Read

GENERAL MANAGER

READ, COOPER & CO.
680 Szechuen Road
SHANGHAI

TEL. 13834

C O N F I D E N T I A L

Date December 28, 1939.

(Headquarters) Office Notes

(Crime).

CONFIDENTIAL

The latest developments with regard to Ashby include negotiations commencing about ten days' ago with the Treasurer, with a view to offering, ~~through~~ the Council, a loan of several million dollars backed by the Paget Corporation in London. The Council, in consultation with their Bankers, have moved very cautiously in the matter, but informed Ashby at the time that he could telegraph his principles in London to make touch with the Hongkong Bank in London, who would communicate Bankers' references ~~through~~ the Hongkong Bank in Shanghai. In the meantime, the Hongkong Bank in Shanghai have wired their Head Office in the matter.

This situation is now pending further developments, but today one Walter Nyi, who wishes to keep his name confidential, called on the Secretary General, and informed him that he was representative of a group of Chinese with about half-a-million dollars at their disposal, and that they had been approached by Ashby, who tendered as reference to some extent, copies of cables sent to London on behalf of the Council Loan referred to above. The Secretary General naturally looks upon this with some anxiety, in case members of the Public may be led to trust large sums of money on the strength of these documents. It has been decided that the Secretary General will write to Mr. Rodgers, Ashby's lawyer, and protest strongly against any reference to the Council at this stage, and any use being made of the fact of negotiations with the Council to create confidence.

A copy of this letter will also be sent to the Commandant, French Police, with a request that he bring pressure on Ashby, who is an Algerian French protégé, to prevent misuse of the Council's name.



Noted
Adm.
CDH
28/12

That is the position at the moment.

One Mr. Tilley, who is an architect of long residence in Shanghai, appears to be connected in some way with Ashby, and it was actually through him that Ashby made touch with the Treasurer of the Council. The Treasurer thinks Tilley may be a potential victim of fraud, but it is not impossible, on the other hand, that Tilley has full knowledge of Ashby's activities. The second time Ashby called on the Treasurer, he produced Mr. H.D. Rodger as his lawyer. It is not known how much Mr. Rodger knows about Ashby. On this occasion also he produced a card giving the name, I.J. Yechivi, instead of the card which he produced on the first occasion, giving the name of Ashby.

Please instruct Detectives to keep a close eye on this case, and add information to this file as it is obtained, until some definite action may become possible.



Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

NYC

FORM NO. 3
6-1-39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S. 1, Special Branch, ~~Section~~
REPORT

Date Dec. 21st, 1939.

Subject (in full) British Finance & Insurance Agency.

Made by D. S. I. Hyde Forwarded by D. I. Crawford

I. J. Ashby is now residing at Apartment 1501,
Broadway Mansions (Tel. 46260, extension 216) under
the name of I. J. Yechivi of the Finance Insurance
& Mercantile Co., 9 Quai de France.

Kurdia

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 111710

S. 1, Special Branch *Edwards*

REPORT

Date December 14, 1939.

Subject British Finance and Insurance Agency.

Made by D.S.I. Tide

Forwarded by D. I. Crawford

Examination of the recent issue of the telephone directory reveals that the business conducted by I. J. Ashby is still listed under the title of the British Finance and Insurance Agency. Enquiries at the Shanghai Telephone Company reveal that the entry is not due to an error as no amended instructions have been received from the subscriber.

Through C.D.J. Melianoff, the French Police have requested that the Municipal Police file an official complaint regarding the above in order to establish grounds for action against Ashby.

Edwards

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).



D. C. (CRIME)

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No. 3.1.Misc.190/39

Headquarters. Division:
Crime Branch. Police Station.
11.12.39.

Diary Number: 1

Nature of Offence:

Time at which
investigation begun
and concluded each day

Places
visited in
course of
investigation
each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

D. C. CRIME

Police Station

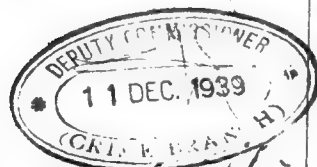
S.B. File D 9160 attached

In accordance with the instructions of the
D.C. (Crime), D.S.I. Pryde interviewed Mr. Wright of
Hausons at 9.30 a.m. on 9.12.39 in connection with
information he had to supply to the Police regarding a
French Algerian named Yechivi Zaki Youssif alias
Ashby.

This man had come under the notice of Mr.
Wright through a client of his having requested Mr.
Wright to verify the bona-fides of Youssif alias Ashby,
as this man had offered to this client mortgage loans
of an unlimited amount to be advanced against freehold
property as security.

Youssif alias Ashby operates the Finance
Insurance of Mercantile Co., 9 French Bund and a full
report on the activities of the man form the subject of
Special Branch File No. 9160 and a close watch is being
kept upon him by the Special Branch and the French Police,
but the following further information is of interest.

He claims to be the China Representative of a
London Financial House named "PAGET Guarantee Company
of London". A representative of the Finance Insurance
and Mercantile Co., called on Mr. Wright and showed him
a typewritten sheet giving the names of the Directors



Please inform
Mr. Wright of
the result of
the inquiry
in the report
Mr. Wright
informed
accordingly
G. B. Pryde
18/12. 12.39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

CRIME DIARY.

CRIME REGISTER No:-

- 2 -

Division.

Police Station.

Diary Number:

Nature of Offence:

Time at which
investigation began
and concluded each day

Places
visited in
course of
investigation
each day

RECORD OF INVESTIGATION.

of the former concern. This list included the names of many titled persons. Mr. Wright has made enquiries through the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank and as far as can be ascertained there is no such firm as the "FAGET Guarantee Company of London".

It would appear that the only way that Youssif alias Ashby is making money out of this scheme at the present time, is by charging an extortionate amount for the valuation of the property and then informing the owners of same that this valuation could not be accepted by London.

As Youssif alias Ashby is already being kept under observation by the S.M.P. and French Police and his activities are known, it would appear that nothing further can be done until there is evidence that he has committed a criminal offence, and I would respectfully suggest that Mr. Wright be informed accordingly and then he can advise his client to have no dealings with Youssif alias Ashby. Mr. Wright does not wish to reveal the name of his client and also requests that his own name be kept confidential in connection with same.

G. B. Pryde.
D. S. I.

LWK

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 7-10

S.I. Special Branch, ~~Scania~~ 31

REPORT

Date August 4, 1939.

Subject (in full) British Finance & Insurance Agency

Made by and Forwarded by D.I. Crawford

48

In accordance with D.C.'s (Special Branch) Instructions the attached file on I.J. ASHBY was shown to C.D.I. EMELIANOFF of the French Police who requested permission to take copies of the photo-static documents appertaining to an alleged fraud in Colombo and to be supplied with a copy of the Police report. Both requests were granted and it is the intention of the French Police to put the matter before the French Consul-General for disposal.

C. G. ~~Gold~~
D. I.

18
D.C. (Special Branch).

MEMO.

DC Crime

Information
& favor of
return in due
course. Ashby
is French. I shall
pass to French
Police for peruse.
Cathay has now
been substituted for
British on the firm's
signboard



fr
D. C. Special Branch.

CONFIDENTIAL
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.I., Special Branch *Station,*

REPORT

Date July 28, 1939.

Subject British Finance & Insurance Agency

M. L. Y. D. S. Hide

For and by: *C. C. G.*

The attached photostatic copies of correspondence between the London, Colombo and Shanghai offices of the Chartered Bank which deals with a confidence trick perpetrated in Colombo apparently by the person known in Shanghai as I.J. Ashby, were obtained from the local office of the Bank on the understanding that the contents thereof be kept strictly confidential although there is no objection to further copies being passed to the French Police. A brief summary follows :-

Towards the end of 1938, a Miss Ida M. Paulusz of 8, Inner Flower Road, Colombo, signed a contract with "The United Kingdom Merchantile and Finance Corporation Ltd.," of 55/56 Chancery, London, W.C.2, represented by a person known to her as "Captain Doctor Jacques Bertrand" of Saigon, Indo-China, to negotiate a loan of Rs 18,000/- from Martins Bank Ltd. of 88, Leadenhall Street, London, W.C. allegedly represented by a person styling himself as 'J. Wimbourne, General Agent for India.'

Miss Paulusz later received from Bertrand coupons No.s 5, 7, 8 and 9, each for S.S. \$150.00 cut from a whole bond of the Straits Settlement Government Loan 1962-72, as security for Rs 540/- paid to him to cover expenses arising in connection with the loan.

Miss Paulusz later handed coupon No. 5 to the Chartered Bank in Colombo for collection. It was

6-10-39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT
(2)

..... Station,
Date 19

Subject

Made by..... Forwarded by.....

subsequently forwarded to the Bank's branch in Singapore where it was discovered to be spurious. It was also ascertained that "J. Wimbourne" had no authority to sign on behalf of Martins Bank.

In a letter to the Head Office dated May 25th 1939, the Colombo Branch of the Chartered Bank reported that a person calling himself Captain Dr. Jacques Bertrand had disappeared after duping several Colombo residents by means of a confidence trick.

Miss Paulusz declined to report the case to the Colombo Police fearing that she might be exposed to ridicule.

The bonds issue in question was printed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons and the coupons received by Miss Paulusz were cut from a specimen \$10,000.00 bond sent to Dann Decker Co., 22, Second Line Beach, Madras, in June 1937. This specimen bond was unnumbered and had been mutilated by holing in the usual manner. The fact that the four coupons received by Miss Paulusz were thus mutilated and unnumbered appears to have escaped her notice.

Messrs. Waterlow & Sons also informed the London Office of the Chartered Bank that they had received an application (copy attached) from :-

The British Finance & Insurance Agency,
9, Quai de France,
French Bund,
Shanghai

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

(3)

Station,
Date 19

Subject

Made by Forwarded by

for quotations and specimen bonds for the contemplated issue of First Mortgage Debenture Bonds in the sum of £880,000-0-0. The manager of this firm was interviewed by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons' Agent for the Far East and he expressly referred to a bond issue printed for the city of Nicheroy, a specimen of which was sent to Dann & Becker Co., at the same time as the ^a Straits Settlement Bonds subsequently passed to Miss Paulusz. He also informed Messrs. Waterlow's agent that the firm's head office was located in Chancery Lane, and although a representative made enquiries he could not trace a firm of this name but was informed that there had previously been a firm known as "The United Kingdom Finance and Insurance Co." which had ceased to function owing to the fact that the manager or proprietor was serving a term of imprisonment.

It will be noted that the address of the now defunct "United Kingdom Finance & Insurance Co." is the same as that of the United Kingdom Merchantile and Finance Corporation Ltd., whilst the head office of the local "British Finance & Insurance Agency" is given as 65/66 Chancery Lane.

In view of the foregoing, it is reasonable to suppose that the person known to Miss Paulusz as Captain Doctor Jacques Bertrand is identical with the person known locally as I.J. Ashby or Captain

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,

(4)

Date 19

Subject

Made by

ForWARDED BY

Jacques Jechivi, and that he is planning to get possession of specimen bonds in order to repeat the fraud perpetrated on the residents of Columbo.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch)

MM

NO. 3
G. 10M-1 38

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

S.I., Special Branch Station,

REPORT

Date May 19, 1939.

Subject (in full) Enquiries regarding the British finance and insurance

Agency

Made by D.S. side

Forwarded by

Attached herewith for purpose of record, is a
photograph of I.J. Asnby, alias Jecnivi, manager of
the British finance & insurance Agency.

D. S.

FILE

D.C. (Special Branch)

205
P.A. to D.C. (S. Br.)
205

CONFIDENTIAL
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. 100-10000

Section 1, Special Branch 184106/1
REPORT

Date April 27, 1939.

Subject Enquiries regarding The British Finance and Insurance Agency.

Made by D.S. Fide

Forwarded by

C. Crawford

It has now been ascertained that on December 25, 1938, the individual known in Shanghai as I. J. Ashby, boarded the s.s. Rajputana at Colombo en route to Hongkong. He was in possession of a second class ticket and travelled as Captain Jacques J. Jeckivi, M.T.M., Sous Commandant of the Surete Generale Paris.

During the course of conversation with his fellow passengers, Ashby claimed to have many personal friends among the high officials of New Scotland Yard and produced a photograph alleged to have been taken at the Dorchester Hotel in London on the occasion of a Metropolitan Police Dinner at which he was a guest. He also claimed to be a captain of the Reserve of Officers of the French Air Force and that he had had flying experience in the Great War and subsequently in Morocco. He also announced that he had been seconded from the Paris Police for duty as liaison officer with the Hongkong Police and that he had completed many similar commissions throughout British India and Afghanistan.

Following the ship's arrival in Hongkong, Ashby was not seen among the passengers who proceeded ashore after the passport examination and was still aboard when the vessel departed for Shanghai. In the light of subsequent events it is presumed that the Hongkong Authorities refused him permission to land although his own explanation was to the effect that he had

FILE

313
20/1/39

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,

Date 19

- 2 -

Subject

Made by

Forwarded by

received cabled instructions to proceed to Japan.

During the voyage from Hongkong to Shanghai, Ashby is believed to have borrowed money from Indian passengers on security of a gold watch and chain and a gold ring which were not seen in his possession on the vessel's arrival in Shanghai on January 9, 1939. Although it was understood that Ashby was proceeding to Japan on the same vessel, he was seen in Shanghai on the day subsequent to its departure. That he did eventually proceed to Japan appears fairly definite but presumably did so under a third name as neither of the first two are recorded on the lists of arrivals and departures.

On March 13, 1939. Ashby obtained steel office furniture to the value of \$860.00 from the Charles Chang Steel Furniture Company of 537, Peking Road. Four days later he paid a deposit of \$386.00 in the form of \$100.00 cash and a cheque for £10-0-0 drawn on the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Efforts to obtain payment of the balance have proved abortive and Ashby has promised to settle the account on May 13, 1939.

During March 1939, Ashby approached a Mr. Cheng Tsi Suan, (LL.B. LL.M. New York University) a lawyer of 149 Szechuen Road with a request that he should act as legal adviser to the British Finance and Insurance Agency. Mr. Cheng was doubtful as to the bona fides of

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

REPORT

Date 19

- 3 -

Subject

Made by

Forwarded by

the concern and wrote to the British Consulate request for information.

For purposes of verification, The British Finance and Insurance Agency has since forward to Mr. Cheng details of four lots of property in respect of proposed mortgages and in this connection it has been ascertained that Mr. Zou Chin Tsah (趙吉齋) of the Ningpo Zaushing Steam Navigation Company of 88, Ningpo Road, has paid Ashby \$1,400.00 valuation fee on property offered as security for a loan of \$230,000.00.

It is understood that Ashby has informed his prospective clients that all business propositions are subject to the approval of his London office which will require eight weeks to obtain.

On April 20, 1939, Mr. S.G. Beare, Consul and deputy registrar of companies, of the British Consulate, wrote to Ashby requesting him to call and explain the British status of the British Finance and Insurance Agency. Ashby interviewed the Consul on April 23, when he declared himself to be a French subject and gave no satisfactory explanation of his right to associate the word "British" with the title of his agency in view of which the British Consul will approach the French Authorities with a request for an appropriate correction to be made.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

Station,

REPORT

Date 19

Subject

- 4 -

Made by

Forwarded by

Mr. Pearce has since stated that so far as the British Consulate is concerned, investigation may now be closed.

t. C. L. Lide

FILE

D.C. (Special Branch)

copy to Messrs. Laidlaw

P.A. to D.C. So Br
22

CONFIDENTIAL

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL

File No.

REPORT

Date Aug 11, 1944

Subject

Made by D.S. Hite

Forced by

T. Jones was killed on the South Side of the
 Island. A copy of the record in Room 50 of the
 Hawaiian State Archives Building, 900 Bishop Street,
 Honolulu, Hawaii, R 2676, with the extension of
 the record to March 10th 1909, which was
 forwarded to the U.S. District Court at Honolulu in
 1909.

On the mailing card the man has described himself as I. S. Ashby, B. Sc. (A.M.A.) A.C.I.I. (Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute). He resides at 1019 F. St. N.W. although this address is not mentioned on his card. During his conversation with the representative of Messageries Maritimes he is said to have described himself as an Assyrian from Beirut. His physical appearance suggests that he is a European with some oriental blood. It is said that he was formerly known as Captain Jaques and held the position of "Sous Generale" in Paris. Enquiries have not yet elicited anything further regarding this point.

The glass panel of the door of the concern bears the following particulars:-

"The British Finance and Insurance Agency"

Collaborators.

Erlangers Ltd

Lazard Bros & Co. Ltd.

The Paget guarantee Corporation Ltd.

London.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.....

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 2 -

Subject.....

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

Correspondents

Paris, New York, Egypt, Palestine, India,
Singapore and Japan.

Enquiries reveal that the first two of the
above mentioned "laborators" are prominent private
London bankers who enjoy an excellent reputation,
whilst the third is a money lending concern but
little is known regarding its activities and
reputation.

The local correspondents of Lazard Bros & Co.
Ltd. are the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and
China but neither this nor six other large foreign
banks at which enquiries have been made known anything
regarding the concern in question.

Among other items, the stationery of the
British Finance & Insurance Agency bears the following
particulars :

Address - P.O. Box 724 Shanghai

Registered Office - 65-66 Chancery Lane, London,
W.C.2.

Branch Offices - 170 Broadway, New York.

1 Rue de Courcelles, Paris.

The 1939 London Directory contains no mention
of the British Finance and Insurance Agency whilst
the majority of the tenants of 65-66, Chancery Lane
are described as turf accountants and none of the
firms located therein appear to be connected with
finance or insurance.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

.....Station,

Date.....19

- 3 -

Subject.....

Made by.....

Forwarded by.....

At the request of the Municipal Police, the French Police detailed an agent to conduct enquiries at the offices of the British Finance & Insurance Agency in the guise of an insurance broker. He was informed that the firm does not transact any form of insurance business but is prepared to negotiate mortgages and advance loans on security for amounts not less than £500 or \$15,000.00.

In March 1939, acting through a salesman named James Francis Browning, Ashby hired two typewriters from the Office Appliance Co., 150 Nanking Road at \$30 per month, and at the same time offered Mrs. Berry, wife of Mr. C. Berry, the acting manager, a position as stenographer, which she accepted on a week's trial.

A few days later Browning was dismissed for misappropriation and immediately afterwards obtained a position with the British Finance & Insurance Agency which he still holds.

At the expiry of her week's trial, Mrs. Berry resigned owing to a dispute regarding her salary, following which Mr. Berry became apprehensive over the safety of the two typewriters and repossessed them on March 18th 1939. Thereupon Ashby wrote to the Office Appliance Co. threatening to take legal action claiming \$100.00 damages for each day he was deprived of the use of the machines.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No.

REPORT

Station,

Date.....19

- 4 -

Subject.

Made by.....Forwarded by.....

Mrs. Berry described the business transacted during the period of her employ as negligible - no letters were written, none received and no clients entered the office.

The Chinese manager of the British Finance and Insurance Co. is one E.H.S. Ching (陳清) who resigned his previous position as salesman to Dodwell & Co., 100 Jinkee Road in order to take up his present employment. He is said to have tendered a bad cheque in payment for goods recently obtained from the Office Appliance Co. on behalf of a fictitious client. The sum involved was refunded under pressure a few days later and no further action taken.

Neither the British Finance & Insurance Co. nor I.J. Ashby are registered with the British or French Authorities and the records of the Municipal Police and French Police contain no reference to them.

Several lines of investigation have been opened as a result of the above enquiries and it is expected that further information will be gained in the near future.

K. W. Lee

D. S.

D.C.(Special Branch)

copy to branch
John
DBH
P.A. to D.C. (Sp. Br.)
18/4

CONFIDENTIAL
MEMO.

Activities & who's
who in

British Finance
and Insurance Agency
9 French Street

One named
J. F. Ashby
is said to be principal

for
D.C. Special Branch.

203

London.

No. 642a

15th June, 1939.

Private & Confidential.

The Agent,

Colombo.

Dear Sir,

Straits Settlements Government 3% Loan 1962/72.

We have read with very great interest your letter No. 412a of 15th ultimo regarding the above, and return the enclosures as requested.

We immediately got into touch with Messrs. Waterlow & Sons Ltd. the printers of the Bonds, and enclose a copy of their reply. We have pointed out to them that although it was their normal practice to send out specimen bonds, perforated only, we think that in addition they should overprint each bond and coupon with the word "specimen". They themselves admit that they perforated some of the coupons with certain words ending with "Limited", and the base of these perforations can be seen on the top of coupon No. 5.

We would mention that there is no such firm at the address given in the document, and also that "Rs.18,000 divided into 800 bonds of over Rs.2000 each" = Rs.1,600,000 at least which should have placed anyone on their guard, quite apart from the absence of a number on the coupon and the perforations.

It is obvious that a gang of rogues is operating together and Messrs. Waterlow inform us that they were told the Manager and/or Proprietor of the United Kingdom Finance and Insurance

-2-

Company was serving a term of imprisonment.

We are, therefore, sending a copy of the correspondence to Madras and Shanghai to see if they can find out anything concerning the firms in question. I might also be advisable to send Capt. Jacques Bertrand's letter to Saigon.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China

MANAGER

38, Bishopsgate,

London.

15th June, 1939

SUB

RE

Recd 27 JUN 1939

A. S. H.

No. 2749

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No.773a

15th June, 1939.

The Manager,

Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

Straits Settlements Government 3% Loan 1962/72.

We enclose copy of an advice to Colombo regarding the above, together with copies of the correspondence referred to. Is it possible for you to ascertain anything concerning the firm mentioned with an address at your port? Please advise Colombo as well as ourselves the result of your enquiries.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China

MANAGER 38 Bishopsgate,

SUB MANAGER London, 15th June, 1939

ACCOUNTANT

No. 773a

The Manager,

Shanghai.

Rec'd 27 JUNE 1939

Ans'd

Dear Sir,

Straits Settlements Government 3% Loan 1962/72.

We enclose copy of an advice to Colombo regarding the above, together with copies of the correspondence referred to. Is it possible for you to ascertain anything concerning the firm mentioned with an address at your port? Please advise Colombo as well as ourselves the result of your enquiries.

Yours faithfully, -



Secretary.

No. 773a

18th June, 1939.

The Manager,

Shanghai.

Dear Sir,

Straits Settlements Government 32 June 1939/72.

We enclose copy of an advice to Colombo regarding the above, together with copies of the correspondence referred to. Is it possible for you to ascertain anything concerning the firm mentioned with an address at your port? Please advise Colombo as well as ourselves the result of your enquiries.

Yours faithfully,


Secretary

To: CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA. -5-

A further strange point is that the Manager of the British Finance & Insurance Agency in Shanghai, when discussing the matter with our Agent expressly referred to a Bond we printed for the City of Nicheroy, a specimen of which we sent to the Dann Decker Co. of Madras at the same time as we sent them a specimen of the Straits Settlement Bond we produced for you.

If we receive any further information on this matter, we will immediately advise you and meantime reiterate our sincerest regrets for the trouble and concern this unfortunate matter has caused you.

We are, Dear Sirs,
Yours faithfully,

W. H. Watson & Co.

COPY

HE/PD

13th June

39

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA,
55 BISHOPSGATE, E.C.2.

Dear Sirs,

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS 3% LOAN 1962-1972

With reference to our recent conversations regarding the four unnumbered and mutilated coupons of \$150 each Nos. 5, 7, 8 and 9 of the above loan which have been returned by your Colombo Office and to the writer's statements to you yesterday, we confirm that we feel confident that these particular coupons have been taken from a specimen \$10000 Bond sent by us to the:-

Dunn Becker Co.
22 Second Line Beach,
Madras

In June 1937 in response to their request to us regarding the production of such Bonds, and it would appear that the specimen has by some means unknown to us got into the hands of the unscrupulous person referred to in your Branch's report.

This unnumbered specimen Bond, with Coupons, was sent to the above mentioned firm in the normal manner in response to their application, and was as is our usual custom cancelled by holding both in the Bond and each of the Coupons prior to being sent.

Cancellation

COPY

CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA

-2-

Cancellation of specimens by holing has always been considered by us to be the best protection against the possibility of their illegal use, and it is extremely difficult to replace mutilated parts of such securities, and we have never previously been advised of a similar attempt to pass such mutilated specimen Coupons as genuine, particularly as they are also unnumbered.

We are extremely sorry that this specimen should have been used in an illegal way, and in view of the difficulty and trouble that this matter has caused you, we are making arrangements that all specimens of similar negotiable documents which we have produced for you are, in future, overprinted with the word "SPECIMEN" as well as mutilated by holing in order that even the most glibble person would be further protected by this additional precaution and refuse to accept them in similar circumstances.

We also confirm that we have recently received an application from a firm entitled

The British Finance & Insurance Agency,
9 Quai de France,
French Bund,
Shanghai

for a quotation and specimens of bonds, and we enclose for your information copy of their application - particularly because they advised our Agent in China that their London Office was in Chancery Lane, and although our representative called at this address he could not find a firm with this name, but was informed that there had previously been a firm there under the name of:-

United Kingdom Finance & Insurance Company

which name was mentioned on the printed Agreement attached to your Colombo Branch's report, and which we were told has now ceased to function owing to certain circumstances which we mentioned.

A G R E E M E N T.

I do hereby agree to forfeit Coupons Nos.

5, 7, 8, 9 dated 15/4/39, 15/4/40, 15/10/40 and 15/4/41 amounting to Straits Government Dollars 600 (six hundred) if Miss Ida Marion Paulusz will not receive the loan of Rs.18,000/- from Martins Bank Ltd., London through the United Kingdom Mercantile & Finance Corporation of London, within thirtyfive days from today's date. She will be free to dispose of these Coupons at any way she may consider necessary and I shall have no claim whatsoever against her for these coupons.

I subscribe my signature this 21/12/38 at Colombo, Ceylon.

(Signature).

(Jacques Bertrand
Capt).

COPY

COPY OF LETTER FROM:-

DANI DECKER COY.

22 Second Line Beach,
Madras.

5th June 1937.

To: Messrs Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
26 St. Winchester Street,
London, W.C.2.

Dear Sirs,

We understand you are printing Debenture Bonds with bearer coupon interest. I have also seen you have printed some Bonds for Mr. Levy from Palestine.

As we are engaged in the same kind of business and would soon require to print Bonds of the same type or of the type of Kassim Bazaar Estate Co. Ltd. we would like you to send us per return of post some specimen of final printing of the issue of above Bonds for our perusal so that we may consider to place our orders with you, per return Air Mail please send specimen.

Thanking you,

Yours very truly,

(Signature)

THE CHARTERED BANK OF INDIA, AUSTRALIA & CHINA
(Incorporated in England by Royal Charter 1826)
(Liability of Shareholders Limited)

P.O. BOX No.27

Sundry Advice.

Colombo, 25th May, 1939.

No.412a.

The Secretary,
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China,
London.

Dear Sir,

Straits Settlements Government
3. Loan 1962 / 72.

We were handed for collection a coupon No. 5 for \$150.
in respect of \$10,000. of the above loan, due on 15th April 1939,
by a Miss Ida L. Paulusz, a respectable Colombo resident.

The coupon was, as usual, forwarded to Singapore Office
for collection, who referred to us for further particulars of the
bond, and on our making enquiries from the above mentioned lady, we
are convinced that the coupon is spurious and that she has been the
victim of a confidence trick.

According to Miss Paulusz this coupon, together with
three others Nos. 7, 8 and 9, which are detached from the relative
bond, were handed to her by a certain "Capt. Dr. Jacques Bertrand"
of Saigon, Indo-China, as security for a sum of Rs.540/- paid by her
as a deposit on Rs.10,000/- bonds to be received from Martins Bank
Ltd., according to a form of agreement signed by "J. Wimborne"
who styled himself "General Agent for India of Martins Bank Ltd."

We enclose for your inspection the four coupons, as well
as the agreement signed by J. Wimborne, and another agreement signed
by Capt. Jacques Bertrand. A copy of a letter from Miss Paulusz
dated the 17th instant, giving details of the transaction is also
attached.

We asked Miss Paulusz to place the matter in the hands
of the Criminal Investigation Department but this she was disinclined
to do as she did not relish the idea of being held up to public
ridicule.

We/

COPY

No. 412a.

-: 2 :-

We may mention that the person calling himself "Capt. Jacques Bertrand" was operating the confidence trick in Ceylon a few months ago and disappeared suddenly after duping several residents. On making enquiries from Martins Bank Ltd., Miss Paulusz was informed that no bonds were being issued to them and that the person calling himself J. Wimborne has no authority to sign on their behalf.

As the above loan was floated by this Bank and the Bearer Bonds were sent out to Singapore by you we shall be obliged if you will make enquiries and advise us if the coupons are forgeries or if any specimen copies of this issue were made and subsequently fraudulently misappropriated.

In this connection we quote from a letter received by us from our Singapore Branch :-

"With reference to your advices we are at a complete loss to understand how the unnumbered coupons in question came into circulation, as to us they appear otherwise to be in order apart from the punched holes. We would mention that to the best of our recollection no specimen bonds were forwarded to us by A.C. for inspection and we can only suggest that you take up the matter with them."

Please return the Enclosures in due course.

I am, Dear Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(Signed)

...gent.

cl:

Assets which the Promoter shall cause to be vested in the

PAULINE PROPERTY CO. LTD.

Company, Limited.

1. A house situate at Inner Flower Road consisting of eight rooms, 1 kitchen, 3 bathrooms and 2 toilets yielding an annual income of Rupees 1080.
2. Applicant will pay annually the sum of Rupees Ninety six and sixty cents to cover the capital and interest for the above mentioned loan and will not have to pay any further expenses whatsoever besides the payment mentioned in para 6 hereof. This payment will be for the first year only.
3. All expenses arising of this loan will be paid by the lenders.

See the Tally

BORROWER.

[Signature]
MARTIN BANK LTD.
GENERAL AGENT FOR INDIA.

Dale End,
Inner Flower Road,
Colombo.

19. 9. 39.

To

The Agent,
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia & China,
Colombo.

Sir,

As requested I am writing the information you wanted regarding the Coupons.

The Coupons I handed to you, including the first one dated April 15th 1939 were given to me by Captain Mr. Jacques Bertrand of Saigon, Indo-China as security for the Rs. 40/- paid to him for the bank expenses for the loan from the Bank, according to the agreement with the Bond Agent Mr. J. Linbourne (who signed the stamped agreement & receipt). These coupons were cut out of the whole Bond, and given to me, together with the written statement (written in my presence and signed by Capt. Mr. J. Bertrand).

Failure to get the loan from the Bank I was to get cash from you giving the Coupons on the due dates, as the signed blue document states.

I do hope that I shall get the cash for these Coupons whether the Bank traces the possessor of the whole Bond, or does not trace him.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd:) Ida H. Paulusz.

SPECIAL CONTRACT FOR BORROWING IN INDIA, BURMA, SINGAPORE, CEYLON, AFRICA, EASTERN INDIA, BURMA, STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND.

THIS AGREEMENT

is made this Twentieth day of DECEMBER 1908
BETWEEN Miss Ida Marion Paulsen
of 2 Inner Flower Road, Colombo, Ceylon,
(hereinafter called the "Promoter") of the first part, and The United
Kingdom Mercantile and Finance Corporation Limited
of 36/50, Chancery Lane, London W.C.2
(hereinafter called the "Corporation") of the second part and
The Martins Bank Limited
of 22 Leadenhall Street London W.C.
(hereinafter called the "Bank") of the third part.

IT IS HEREBY AGREED between the said parties hereto as follows:—

1. The object of this Contract is to provide for the said Promoter summe
of the sum of Eighteen thousand rupees
for a period of sixty years at interest at the rate of 4 1/2 per cent. per annum and
subject to the amortisement by means of the issue of an Assurance (capital
redemption Policy) for which the annual premium will be about 0.60 per cent. per
annum, and subject to the guarantees hereinafter appearing. It being understood
that the Promoter shall have the faculty of redeeming the loan in whole or in part
at any time without indemnity to the holders of the Bonds (at any date after the
first three years) in which event the whole of the premium paid upon the capital
redemption policy will be returned to him plus two per cent. simple interest.

2 To give effect to this intention the Bank has agreed to provide such
money subject to the due carrying out of the following undertakings on the part
of the Promoter.

3. The Promoter hereby gives instructions to the Corporation on the
Promoter's behalf to register a Public Company Limited by shares under the
Company Laws of England, with a nominal Capital of one thousand pounds sterling,
the Memorandum and Articles of Association of such Company must be prepared and
printed by the Corporation and all documents necessary for the registration of the
Company must be sent by the corporation to the promoter complete for signature by
the Promoter within an extreme delay of one month of the date hereof and when such
documents shall have been presented for signature to the Promoter forthwith these
documents will be signed by the Promoter and returned by him to the Corporation
for registration. Then, within an extreme delay of one month, after the receipt of
such documents by the Corporation, the Corporation will cause to be registered such
Company under the Company Laws of England as aforesaid. The name of such
Company shall be The Paulsen Property
Company, Limited (or such other name as the Promoter shall decide), and in this
Contract such Company shall be spoken of as the "Company." The number of
the Members of the Board of Directors shall be two (both of whom shall be chosen
by the Promoter). As soon as such Company is registered, and in any case within
the extreme delay of thirty-five days thereafter, the Promoter shall cause the
Company to print, sign and issue Debenture Bonds to Bearer of a commercial freely
negotiable value to British investors and freely negotiable upon the London
market for the sum of Eighteen thousand Rupees
divided into eight hundred Bonds to Bearer of over 2000 Rupees

each redeemable at the end of sixty years,
or at earlier dates in whole or in part at the discretion of the Company without
indemnity to the holders of the Bonds. The rate of interest shall be 4 1/2 per cent.
per annum, payable by half-yearly coupons to bearer (not in advance). To
guarantee the amortisation of such Debenture Bonds before the issue of each
Debenture Bonds the Promoter shall cause the Company to secure a "Sinking Fund
Capital Redemption" Policy from a British Assurance Company to the approval
of the Bank for the total sum of the total issue of such Debenture Bonds for which
the annual premium payable should be about 0.60 per cent. This Capital Redem-
tion Policy can be secured by the Corporation on behalf of the Promoter.
Debenture Bonds shall be a Legal First Charge upon the whole assets of the
Company and such assets of the Company shall consist of the said Capital Bonds.

tion Assurance Policy and those other Assets described in the list attached headed "Assets which the Promoter shall cause to be vested in the Realms Property Company, Limited," it being understood that all such said assets shall be legally vested in the Company by the Promoter prior to the date of such issue of Debenture Bonds.

4. As soon as the issue of the said Debenture Bonds has been made by the Company in accordance with Clause 3 hereof such Debenture Bonds shall be deposited in London by the Promoter with the Agents of the Promoter and handed over to the Bank as against payment by the Bank of their par value. The maximum delay in completing such deposit of such Debenture Bonds has been especially fixed for the convenience of the Promoter at thirty-five days from the date of registration of the Company. Upon the prospectus of the issue of the Debenture Bonds the Promoter shall select and appoint the persons and firms who shall act as London Stock Exchange Brokers, London Bankers, Auditors and Directors of the Company.

5. The Bank undertakes definitely to place the whole of such issue of Debenture Bonds within fourteen days of the deposit of such Bonds in London at its disposition as described in Clause 4 hereof and if such Bonds are not all taken up by the public during such period of fourteen days, the Bank will then purchase (for its own account) the whole portion of such Bonds remaining unsold at the end of such fourteen days. The Corporation guarantees the whole of the Bank's engagements under this agreement.

6. As fixed remuneration for all work and expenses of the Corporation for the registration of the Company and for securing the signature of the Bank to this Contract, the Promoter shall pay to the Corporation a fee at the rate of six per cent. of the amount of such issue of ~~Eighteen thousand~~

~~Rupees~~
namely the sum of ~~One thousand and sixty rupees~~ half
of which (namely) ~~five hundred and forty rupees~~
shall be paid on the signing hereof, and the balance when the said Bonds are purchased.

7. It is hereby agreed that the dates, times and delays specified herein shall be respected strictly by all parties and that in all instances time is the essence of the Contract.

8. This Agreement shall be deemed to be made in England under English Law and shall be construed by English Law. Should any dispute of whatsoever nature arise between any of the parties hereto the same shall be referred to Arbitration in accordance with the English Arbitration Law and a decision of such Arbitration shall be final.

9. The Bank hereby guarantees to the Promoter that, should the Corporation fail in its engagements under this Agreement within four months of the date of this Agreement, then the Bank will return in full to the Promoter all payments made by the Promoter to the Corporation under the terms of this Agreement.

10. This Agreement is the only definite Contract existing between the parties, and all previous correspondence, agreements and promises of whatever nature are hereby cancelled.

11. All the Shares of the Company shall be issued to the Promoter in compensation for his transferring the said properties to the Company, and thus the Promoter shall have absolute control of the Company.

12. The date of this Agreement shall be the date when the within mentioned advance costs have been received by the Corporation.

AS WITNESS the hands of the persons authorised by the respective parties to execute this Agreement:—

SIGNED on behalf of the said
"Promoter"

Edw. J. P. ...

SIGNED on behalf of the said
"Corporation"

SIGNED on behalf of the said
"Bank"

 **AGENT FOR INDIA.**

12. - Payment of the within named costs must be made only to Messrs. ... and payable to ... or by order of the ... or to the credit of ...

COPY

COPY OF LETTER FROM:-

THE BRITISH FINANCE & INSURANCE AGENCY

Finance Dept.

Ref. BHM/0/39/103.

9 Great Portland Street (French and
Italian Mail).

1st April 1939

to Messrs Waterlow & Sons Ltd.
20/7 Great Winchester St.
London, E.C.2.

Dear Sirs,

We contemplate to float an Issue of First Mortgage
Venture Bonds (to Bearer) in the sum of £330,000.0.0.
We shall be thankful if you can supply us with specimens
and price-list of your "printed" and "water marked" bonds.

The issue will be made in Sterling and Chinese Dollars,
the term of 20-30 years respectively.

Upon your sending the specimen Bonds, will you please
to serially number same so as to allow us to cable
the approval of printing the bond similar to that serial
and immediately affixing the necessary wording and
seals.

Expecting to hear from you soon,

Yours faithfully,
THE BRITISH FINANCE & INSURANCE AGENCY.

(Signature)

Manager, Finance Dept.

OFFICE
149 SZEK KUN ROAD
4TH FLOOR
ROOM 435-G
TEL. 15974

師 律 宣 際 鄭
MR. T. S. CHENG
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

所 務 事
號九四一路川西
號五三四樓四
號五七九九一話電

Apr. 30. 1939.

Dear Sir,

I received from the British Consulate
at Suwan Agency, an application for
mortgage No. 4. The applicant is Mr.
M. G. Gjerick, applied for a loan of
\$140,000. - against his own property
situated at 259-263 Rue Eugene Bard
(known as Men Theatre), there, I
believe, he still lives.

I wish you can find something
out from him personally.

Yours truly,

Mr. TSI-SUAN CHENG
鄭 際 宣 律 師

T. S. Cheng
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW.

OFFICE
149 SZECHUEN ROAD
4TH FLOOR
ROOM 435-6
TEL. 19975

師律宣際鄭
MR. T. S. CHENG
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

— 所 務 事 —

號九四一路川四
號六五三四樓四
號五七九九一話電

Apr. 30. 1939.

Laurence W. Nide Esq:
Special Branch
S'hai Municipal Police.

Dear Sir:

I have this day found out the gentleman Mr.
趙吉齋's address as follows:—

靜安寺路吉美邨.

The gentleman has paid \$1400.— to the British
Finance & Insurance Agency.

yours

MR. TSI-SUAN CHENG
鄭際宣律師
L. S. Cheng
ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW.

CIRCULAR No. 6

CONDITIONS FOR THE GRANT OF MORTGAGE LOANS.

1. Mortgage loans will be granted to owners of first class freehold property in the principal cities only.
2. Such loans can be made upon the guarantee of first mortgages upon buildings erected or to be erected, theatres, apartment houses, film studios, cinemas, hotels, mines, plantations etc., upon businesses or Industrial, Commercial, and Agricultural Companies, provided the net annual revenue exceeds the annual gross charges by sufficient margin.
3. The maximum advance will not exceed 60% of the present day value of the property to be mortgaged.
4. Interest at the rate of $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum will be payable half yearly in advance.
5. The loan must be secured by means of an Endowment Policy. The premium, which is payable half yearly or annually in advance, will liquidate the mortgage loan upon the expiration of the term or at previous death of the assured.
6. No loans will be granted for terms over thirty years.
7. Part payments on account of the capital will be accepted by the Company and interest thereon reduced accordingly. The balance of the loan could be refunded at any date after the first three years, subject to three months notice in advance.
8. The property to be mortgaged must be insured against risk of fire, earthquake and civil commotion under the Comprehensive Scheme.
9. The Policies mentioned in paragraphs 5 and 8 must be assigned to the Company granting the loan who will hold same as Collateral Security until the redemption of the loan is entertained. (See paragraph 5 above).
10. Loans will not be granted to female owners unless the Endowment Policy is made out in the name of the husband who must also sign the Deed of Mortgage as guarantor.
11. The property must be surveyed and valued by the Valuer of the Company whose valuation is considered as final by the Company.
12. The following documents must be presented with the application:—
 - (1). Valuation Report. (See para. 11).
 - (2). Approved plans of the land and construction.
 - (3). Two photographs of the property.
 - (4). List of tenants showing rents paid by each.
 - (5). Amount of advances received from tenants.
 - (6). Certificate of Title. (or copy).
 - (7). Deed of Mortgage. (if property is mortgaged).
13. If, from the particulars given, the Agent considers the application acceptable, the premises will then be inspected and a Valuation Report submitted to the Company.
14. If, for any unforeseen reason, the Company declines the application, the applicant must be prepared to forfeit forty per cent. of the Inspection and Valuation Fee deposited.
15. The borrower is free in selling the house mortgaged subject to the previous consent of the Company.

March 22nd, 1939.

Mr. P. S. Widdup,
The Business Equipment Co., Inc.,
Memphis, P. I.

Report Re British Finance & Insurance Agency

Dear Mr. Widdup,

We have received a letter from The British Finance & Insurance Agency in this city, a copy of which is enclosed. For your information the circumstances are as follows:

On the 2nd of March a gentleman who gave his name as I.J. Ashby and his address as 1019 Park Hotel came to the Lower Sales and made inquiries regarding typewriters, safe, steel desks and chair and stated that if he purchased these goods he would pay by instalments. The Lower Sales inquiry slip was handed to Mr. Browning for attention since he told me that he used to know Mr. Ashby who was a friend of his father's.

The sale for the safe and steel went to Charles Chang Steel Furniture Company whose prices were much lower than ours but Browning told us that he thought he could sell two new Royals to this company. They had, however, to obtain permission to purchase them from London and it was agreed that they would hire the machines at US\$30.00 a month each until this permission was received. One machine was delivered on March 13th and the hire paid in advance but when we delivered the second machine they said they would like to try it for a few days before definitely accepting it on hire terms.

In the meantime, I had received your cable regarding Mr. Browning and he being unable to furnish the necessary guarantees, had left us and joined The British Finance & Insurance Agency. Browning had already told me that when he used to know Mr. Ashby, he went under another name and this, coupled with the fact of his employing a man with Browning's record, made me rather doubtful of the standing of this new company.

However, my wife had been offered a position as stenographer in this company on a week's trial and since she would be there to keep an eye on the machines, I allowed them to remain there. At the end of the week, Saturday March 18th, she told me that they had decided not to keep her on, probably because they were unwilling to pay the salary she asked, and since she was no longer there to watch our interests, I considered it advisable to remove our machines, more especially so since I had learned that this company was also employing a man named Ching who as one of Dodwell's salesmen had been mixed up in some shady business wherein he gave us a bad cheque in payment for a machine (we recovered the money for this machine a few days later).

The fact of the head of the company going under an assumed name and the quality of his employees having made me very doubtful indeed of their

standing, I went to the office the first thing on Monday, March 20th, with a collect note and two coolies and removed the machines. Mr. Ashby was not present at the time but Browning was and as the only available representative of the company, I offered him the explanation that it was not our usual policy to allow new machines on hire and that I had been unable to get the company to agree to my making an exception in their case.

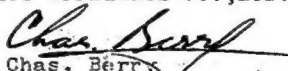
I sent them an amended invoice for one week's hire only and a credit memo for the balance. In case you do not have a copy of our Shanghai hire contract in Manila, I am enclosing one and you will notice that Paragraph 3 allows us to repossess the machine at any time.

With regard to their claim for \$3100.00 per day "as liquidated damages for every day of absence of the said typewriter", I am quite sure that this would not stand up in any court, even should it get so far as a court, since my wife will be able to testify that during the whole of the week she was with this company no letters were written, none were received and no clients came into the office, so that their business would appear to be exactly nil. This, incidentally, was a further reason for my distrust of this company.

Further, their letter to us was typed and dated March 20th so that even should they have suffered any, nevertheless, it evidently was rectified the same day as they had a machine on which to type this letter.

Yours faithfully,

THE OFFICE APPLIANCE CO., LTD.,


Chas. Berry

CB:MA